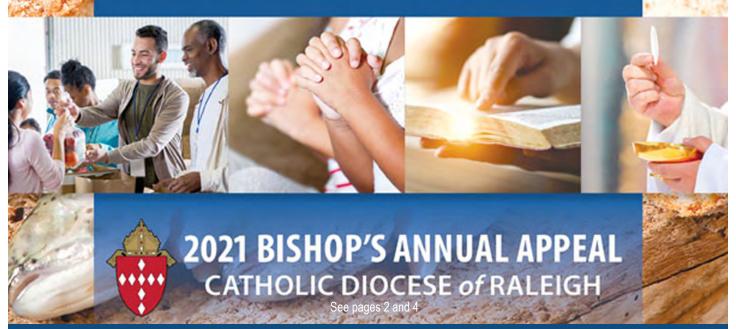
**February 14, 2021** 

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time** 

## me Family in Christ

**WHO PRAYS, SERVES & SHARES** 

IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA



Please make your donations to the Bishops Annual Appeal by clicking here.

## **■ Daily Mass 10am**

Daily Mass is held Mon., Tues., Thur., and Fri. in the church.

Wednesdays are reserved for TFS and Preschool Mass.

All pandemic protocols are followed. No signups are required.

### **Our Mission Statement**

Inspired by our patron
Francis of Assisi, we seek to
proclaim the reign of God by
growing in Holiness through
our experience of Christ in
word, sacrament and one
another, offering Hope to those
who hunger for human dignity,
and extending Hospitality to all.







House Fire of Staff Member: Trevor Thompson, director of our Justice and Peace Ministry, lost his home to fire last Tuesday.

Fortunately, no one was hurt. We are encouraging parishioners who would like to assist his family with the rebuilding effort to contribute through a GoFundMe link which you received from a Constant Contact email I sent last Friday. PLEASE USE THIS LINK ONLY. We are learning about possible scammers who are setting up other types of accounts that look similar to the official link. Thanks for keeping Trevor and his family in your prayers.

Ash Wednesday: Please see the parish website for information regarding our four Ash Wednesday liturgies at the church, how to sign up for them, and which ones will be livestreamed. I would like to note that ashes will be distributed at these liturgies a bit differently this year in light of COVID-19 safety protocols. For those electing to receive them, they will be distributed in a manner more common outside the United States but part of our Catholic tradition: sprinkling them lightly on the top of one's head. This is how the Pope receives ashes every year. This manner of distribution is recommended by the Vatican to eliminate personal contact between the distributor and recipient of ashes and subsequent contact with others. If you are uncomfortable having a few ashes sprinkled on your head, please note that the reception of ashes is entirely optional.

Bishop's Annual Appeal: We kick off the Bishop's Annual Appeal this weekend. Our goal is: \$509,088. Although this goal is high, it is proportionally equal to every other parish based on offertory and number of households. You will learn more about the many ministries that are served by the BAA in our parish video starring our own Fr. Jairo. His is a great story and he is a priest of our diocese because of the BAA. It will be played at all Masses this weekend and will also be available on our parish website. I really encourage you to view it.

Response to Inaccurate AP Story: An inaccurate article was recently published by the Associated Press that created the perception that the Diocese of Raleigh is sitting on vast sums of disposable income and questioned whether Catholic parishes. schools, etc. should have participated in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) last year. The article implies that this diocesan money could have been used to support parishes. The article used inaccurate data and lacked an understanding of the financial resources of the Diocese. A lot of that money is tied up in previously designated funds and restricted gifts that legally and ethically cannot be used for any other purpose. An excellent response to the article from Dr. Russ Elmayan, chief financial officer of the diocese and a parishioner of St. Francis, that accurately portrays the true facts with total transparency is available on our parish website. I encourage you to read it.

The parish was the beneficiary of a PPP loan. A statement from our director of finance and planning, Rob Neppel, endorsed by the previous and current chairs of the parish Finance Council, Tim Throndson and Steve Vebber, and me is also found on our parish website. The statement describes what we received and how it was used. You will clearly see that without the loan, the parish (i.e., church, pre-school, and TFS) would be in serious financial difficulty today because of the massive loss of income we experienced in the previous fiscal year and are continuing to experience in this one. It too shows how we have been good stewards of what we received. We did not deprive any other small business from receiving a PPP loan. In fact, nearly \$130 billion remained unused in this program.

I tell you all this to assure you that the Bishop's Annual Appeal is used appropriately and for very worthwhile causes. Supporting the many diocesan programs through this appeal is necessary because of the limitations placed around larger sums of diocesan money that are restricted. I also tell you this so you are aware of our own transparency regarding our reception and use of a PPP loan. Please be assured we treat your donations with the highest respect and integrity.

Msgr. Clay

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE AND PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM:

- + Tony Wisniewski Father of Donna Sincock
- + Carrie Finley Voinche Mother of Jack Finley

You can mail your contribution to us at:

St Francis Of Assisi 11401 Leesville Road Raleigh, NC 27613

You give can Online through:



### **Faith Direct:**

https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org /faith-direct/



Text-to-Give: 919-629-1199 **Additional Online Giving Methods:** www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/

### **February Envelope Schedule**

February 14 Weekly

February 17 Weekly

February 17 Ash Wednesday/ Missions of the

Americans and Europe

February 21 Weekly February 28 Weekly

## LENT OFFERINGS

### LENTEN MONDAYS WITH THE ST. JOHN'S BIBLE

11-12:15 or 7-8:15 pm Videos with illuminations & Scripture selections with a guided lectio visio divina prayer experience

**Information & Registration** 

### LENTEN WEDNESDAYS EVENING PRAYER

7:00 pm 2/24, 3/3, 3/10 3/17 Praise & Worship 3/24 Extended Retreat

Livestreamed to all platforms

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Lenten Fridays 7:00 pm

Livestreamed to all platforms

### TO KNOW, TO BELIEVE, TO LIVE

Msgr. Clay shares a new vision for our community.

Deepen your understanding of the Gospel with 10 essentials for a lifelong journey of living the Christian faith Small group ministry viewing or at-home study.

**More Information** 

### FRIDAY NOON LUNCHBREAK WITH MR. JIM

Music, Scripture lessons, & surprise guests for the young & young at heart

Livestreamed to all platforms

### **GREENER LENT**

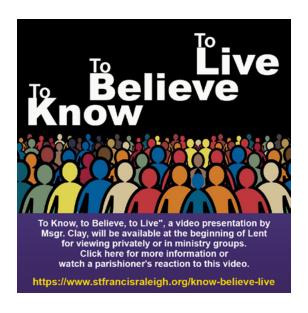
Expand abstinence & fasting by giving up meat consumption

Information & Registration

Questions: stfccreation@gmail.com

### FIND OUR LIVESTREAMS

Facebook
SFA website
YouTube



### **Know Believe and Live**

**To Know:** A lifelong journey of growth in our

knowledge of the Christian faith.

To Believe: A lifelong journey of growth in our

assent and acceptance of what we teach at the level of faith.

To Live: A lifelong journey of understanding

how we make this a part of our life.

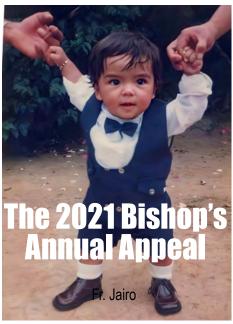
Over the next several weeks we will be recording the 10 modules of Monsignor Clay's *Know Believe and Live* presentation. A 75-minute overview video will be available for parishioners in the beginning of Lent to virtually watch at home or in their existing ministry groups. Parishioners from our community who have already experienced the video will be sharing their response to how it resonated with their life. This week we hear from Julio de la Rosa, a long-time parishioners of St. Francis.



Julia House

We hope that as you listen to this witness from Julio this weekend and from another member from our community on February 13/14. Our hope is that you will be inspired to watch/experience the 75-minute overview video and ultimately participate in the entire *Know Believe and Live* series later this year.

https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/know-believe-live/



The 2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh is titled: One Family In Christ, Who Prays, Serves, and Shares in Eastern North Carolina. Everyone should have received or will be receiving information from the Diocese of Raleigh with the ways in which you can support this year's campaign. Over the next couple of weeks we will be reminding everyone about the good work of Bishop's Annual Appeal, how it helps so many and the ways in which you can contribute both financially and most importantly through prayer. A great example of how the BAA benefits our family here at St. Francis is exampled in the very presence of Father Jairo. He is here as a result of the generous support of the BAA and we humbly invite you to continue your support of this important campaign. The weekend we shared an original video during Mass that was created for this year's BAA. The video features Father Jairo and the ways in which his journey to us was aided by the generous support of the BAA. The Bishop's Annual Appeal in the Diocese of Raleigh truly does the work of Christ. This is the one time of the year that we are called to step out of our parishes and serve the Universal Church across the Eastern half of North Carolina. The BAA provides critical funding for a wide range of ministries, including Seminarians and Vocations, Communications, Marriage and Family, Catholic Charities, Catholic Education and many more.

### **EDUCATION MINISTRIES**

Mike Watson, Principal TFS

## A Lenten Focus Building from Catholic Schools Week



We finished Catholic Schools Week. which was January 31st through February 6th just a week ago, and, as we do every year, our students and their families have provided service that has resulted in hundreds of people across the world being helped to be fed, housed, and clothed. However, the focus should not be on the statistics and numbers, the focus should be on what we do for others and how that benefits those people in their daily lives. This is the same focus we should have as we quickly enter into the season of Lent this Wednesday. We try to live the message of Lent year-round, but we should never make service to others, through "alms giving", an automatic or unconsidered action on our parts; we can never lose sight of the individuals we are benefitting for they are

who we all serve as the "hands and feet of God on Earth". That is our calling, to be present as individuals to other individuals in need.

When we consider what we can "do" during Lent, we oftentimes talk about what we are "giving up" for Lent. Lent should be less of a focus on ourselves and what we are doing, and more of a focus on how we interact with each other as a community; what we can provide to the community to benefit others. How can we make the focus of Lent on the larger community? We can do that most obviously through alms giving and service, but also through prayer; prayer for those in need, whether it is a spiritual need, a physical need for healing, or a financial need.

As we enter Lent this year, let us reconnect as a school and Parish community! We should embrace this time of change and renewal as Jesus embraced His time before His Easter sacrifice. We join to celebrate as a school community in solidarity with our Faith and in connection with each other with love and support!

Join us for one of our upcoming virtual information sessions to learn more on how we can support your family's goals for your child through the love and support provided by our TFS family.

### February 18, 7:00pm March 16, 12:00pm

More information can be found on our website at www.franciscanschool.org or contact Principal Mike Watson at michael.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

### **EDUCATION MINISTRIES**

Heidi Hobler, Director St. Francis of Assisi Preschool

### **Happy Valentine's Day!**



"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7)

Happy Valentine's Day! On this day when we recognize the importance of affection and kindness in our lives. I think it's also an appropriate time to reflect on how we teach our youngest students about love of God and each other. While certainly most of our classes partake in some traditional Valentine activities such as card making and special treats, we also use this as a time to further reiterate the love that God has for us and we should have for each other. I so enjoy walking in the hallways of preschool and hearing/seeing all of the ways in which our students are learning this! While this message is carried throughout the year, Valentine's Day offers a good opportunity to practice it in other ways. One such way is in emphasizing our friendships and caring for our peers. Whenever parents express worry about their child starting school and not making friends, I always try to reassure them that preschool is the ideal place to practice

initiating, forming, and sustaining friendships. I know several families who still have connections and friendships with other families that they met here! Preschool is where children begin to look beyond their world of 'me, myself, and I' and out into the world of recognizing the importance and value of those around them. During each day, we reiterate the idea of God's love being for everyone and how we need to extend it in the same way to those around us. God asks us to love and show compassion for all, no matter our differences. We constantly model doing this in the classroom because everyone is considered a friend and member of the class family. Sometimes we are lucky enough to catch extra glimpses of our students expressing their friendship with their classmates. It might be by seeing a student offering unsolicited help to complete a task. It might be by watching one student take another's hand in line. Perhaps it is one

friend working with another to finish a puzzle. And particularly around this time of year, it might be making and sharing Valentines. One of our 3 years olds I think said it the best in response to a question about her artwork: "I am making hearts for the kids so they know I love them!" I can't help but think that the Holy Spirit must have been present in this child to inspire these words! In our daily prayers, let us ask God to help us to continue to show kindness and love to those around us, particularly as we try to model this for the little people in our lives. May our Lord be always present in our hearts!

Registration for the 21-22 school year is happening! To learn how to join our amazing preschool, please visit our website at <a href="mailto:preschoolatstfrancis.com">preschoolatstfrancis.com</a> or contact Shelley Freeman at shelley freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

### JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Becky Cawley, Justice and Peace Specialist



Moved by God's perfect love, knowing and believing that we are made in God's image, and inspired by our baptismal call to holiness and care for those in harm's way, representatives from our parish along with others from our diocese set out on a journey last week to bring our Catholic values to the nation's capital through the 2021 Virtual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG). It was an amazing journey!

Recent popes have been adamant that the Church should not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice in our world. In that spirit and with the Holy Spirit as our guide, we joined over 900 Catholics from across the country in prayer, formation, networking, and advocacy on behalf of the poor and vulnerable, promoting human life, dignity, justice and peace. Our time began with a reminder from leaders of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops that dialogue, relationships and our gifts as the body of Christ and the same human family are the foundations of our work in building a more just and peaceful world. We Catholics are called to bring the fullness of the light of Christ into the public square and political conversations wherever we are.

During CSMG, legislators from almost all 50 states were visited virtually by attendees, with our NC delegation visiting the offices of both of our NC senators. Each of us also made a call to the representative of our legislative district. During these meetings our US Bishops asked us to advocate for legislation in three important areas and they gave us the grounding and information we needed to do so effectively. In particular, we asked our legislators to act now to pass a robust COVID-19 relief package that addresses people's needs for housing, food, employment and income support, healthcare and safety for those in prison, iails and detention centers. We also asked our legislators to ensure that at least \$20 billion in international assistance was included in the next COVID relief package and to increase funding for ongoing international poverty-reducing development and humanitarian programs in future appropriations. And finally we asked them to act now to support bipartisan immigration reform that ensures access to permanent legal status and a path to citizenship for current residents, reaffirms and prioritizes family unity and reunification, reforms the immigration

detention system, addresses root causes of migration and evaluates and revises immigration enforcement strategies to ensure just and humane treatment of all migrants.

Unfortunately, because of the impeachment trial we didn't get to visit with the actual legislators but the staff we talked with were wonderful. They were kind, respectful and professional. They told us they would covey to their bosses our concerns and in many cases briefed us on plans and objectives in these areas. There was much agreement on the need for what we were asking for and they very much appreciated our visit.

If you would like to be involved in future advocacy work in our parish, please reach out to Trevor Thompson at trevor. thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org . If you would like to receive action alerts which include opportunities to advocate for our vulnerable brothers and sisters via the US Bishops office you can sign up here: https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/home

### PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

### **Caring Casseroles & Feed the Need:**

Caring Casseroles & Feed the Need is back! Our refrigerator is now located in Cupertino in the Community Center. Please note the following when dropping off your meal.

- Both Feed the Need and Caring Casseroles should be dropped off at the Community Center – specifically the middle door which opens into Cupertino Room. The middle door will be unlocked between 9:00am and 4:00pm Monday-Friday.
- The doors to the rest of the Community Center will remain locked.
- There will be one refrigerator for Feed the Need and one refrigerator for Caring Casseroles. They will be labelled accordingly.
- Please do not put anything in the freezer. We will be using both freezers for short term storage of meals for families.
- Please remember to put a label on each meal including the ingredients. We have some families with food allergies and you can help us keep them safe by just including the ingredients for each meal for both Feed the Need and Caring Casseroles.
- If you have any questions or would like to join this wonderful ministry, contact me at 919-847-8205x241 or email me at <a href="mailto:kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org">kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org</a>

Thank you so much for continuing to cook delicious, nutritious meals that benefit members of our St. Francis community who are in need.

### **Divorce Care**

Join us in February for our next session via Zoom on Tuesday, February 2nd to May 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Fee is \$20.00 per book. Registration link coming soon. We do ask that everyone (new and past participants) register for this event. Each week is different, so you can join anytime. All are welcome! For more information, and to register, please visit: <a href="https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/divorce-care/">https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/divorce-care/</a>

### **Catholic Parish Outreach**

Pick up a bag at Mass the weekend of Feb. 6/7, in Cupertino during the week Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:00pm or use your own bag and get the list of items needed from our website. The CPO Truck will be on site the weekends of Feb 13/14 and Feb 20/21 to collect your filled grocery bags. Saturday hours are 3:00-6:00pm and Sunday hours are 9:00am-1:00pm and 3:00-6:00pm. For more information about: how to pick up a bag, for a list of needed items and drop off options please visit: <a href="https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/catholic-parish-outreach/">https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/catholic-parish-outreach/</a>

## Black History Month



# Event 2 Danielle Brown US Bishops Office "Racism, Church Teaching and this Cultural Moment"

via Zoom - Tuesday Feb 23, 7:00- 8:30 pm

Racism is a life issue! So say our Bishops in their 2018 pastoral letter against racism: Open Wide Our Hearts the enduring call to love. Explore this courageous look at the horror that is racism at www.usccb.org/racism.

Come with your reservations, questions and hopes as Ms. Danielle Brown, the associate director of the US Conference of Catholic Bishop's Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism, engages with us around this powerful pastoral letter, our Scriptural and church foundations, our call to work to change hearts, policies and structures and act on behalf of our brothers and sisters of color toward an end to racism. Join us on Tuesday Feb 23, 7:00 – 8:30 pm via Zoom. Sign up here to RSVP and a Zoom link will be sent to you: <a href="https://www.bit.ly/BHM-USCCBspeaker2021">www.bit.ly/BHM-USCCBspeaker2021</a>.

"It is love that compels us to resist racism courageously. It requires us to reach out generously to the victims of this evil, to assist the conversion needed in those who still harbor racism, and to begin to change policies and structures that allow racism to persist." (OWOH p. 15)

### JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES





Equality

Equity

## Event 3 Course Faith & Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege

Begins the week of April 12.

Faith and Racial Equity: Exploring Power and Privilege is an eight week course that will be offered via Zoom on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings beginning April 12/13. Rooted in faith, prayer and Scripture it awakens groups to the economic systems, public policies, cultural norms, and hidden biases that empower some and oppress others. It introduces a framework for understanding and recognizing racial disparities in power and privilege and helps participants explore how faith should inform their response to learning, as well as discern action steps for working toward racial equity in their own communities.

Faith and Racial Equity is not for the faint of heart. It is designed for participants who are willing to wrestle with hard questions and take an honest look at their own attitudes, assumptions, and choices. However, through spiritual grounding and community-building, participants find support and belonging throughout their journey to personal transformation and social action.

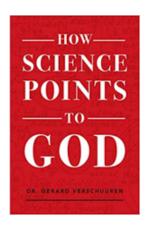
Sign up here if are interested or would like to learn more: <a href="https://www.bit.ly/SFA-FRE2021">www.bit.ly/SFA-FRE2021</a>



Tuesday Feb 16, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Come stand in solidarity and be a prophetic witness for our brothers and sisters of color on Tuesday Feb. 16 4:00 – 5:30 pm. We will meet at Benson United Methodist Church 4706 Creedmoor Rd, Raleigh, NC 27612. Sign up here and more information will be sent to you: <a href="https://www.bit.ly/BHM-demonstration2021">www.bit.ly/BHM-demonstration2021</a> We will begin in prayer, wear masks and safely social distance outside.

Scripture and the principle of solidarity within Catholic Social Teaching tells us that we are one human family, despite our racial differences, united to one another through Christ. And that solidarity is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the good of all people.



### "How do the sciences hint at God's existence?"

You are so welcome to join the Faith and Science Forum as we begin discussing a new book, How Science Points to God by Dr. Gerard Verschuuren, on Wednesday March 3rd. The forum meets twice monthly to share information and presentations, to discuss books, to ask questions, and to support one another in our mutual discovery and appreciation of our common home.

We affirm with Pope Francis in Laudato Si that the mystery of nature reveals the divine, that the Spirit is active in creation, that each creature has its own purpose, and that the universe unfolds in God who fills it completely. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Ron Monti at 919-841-0807, <a href="mailto:montiorn@aol.com">montiorn@aol.com</a>, or Tracy Hurley at 828-773-3152, danandtracy@hotmail.com.





Before the holidays, each family received a letter from Monsignor Clay requesting your support in 2021 through your time. talent, and/or treasure. Partnered with that letter was the 2021 \*Stewardship Commitment Form. If you have not had the opportunity to discuss and pray about how Christ calls us to be disciples, please take a moment to do so now. It is so important to fill out the form and return it to the parish as soon as possible. As Monsignor Clay's letter articulates: "this is not a binding contract but a good faith pledge to do your best to support the parish in the way(s) that is/are possible for each member of your household." The \*Stewardship Commitment Form provides a way to think about and then share how you will be a passionate steward here at St. Francis. If you prefer to complete the Stewardship Commitment Form online, you can do that now by clicking here. Thank you for supporting our parish home. On a personal note, I pray every day for our entire St. Francis family and I am so very grateful for your belief in Stewardship as a Way To Life. I hope that the new year brings much needed healing and peace to every member of this big beautiful St. Francis family.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me. <u>Deb.Royals-Mizerk@stfrancisraleigh.org</u> or by calling (919) 847-8205x222.

\*The parish Stewardship Commitment form is not the form to use for the Franciscan School or the St. Francis of Assisi Preschool stewardship rate application process. That is a separate form and can be found on the school website.



Lent starts February 17. Greener Lent is a beautiful way to expand your traditional days of abstinence and fasting during this holy season by giving up consumption of meat and becoming more aware of our eating habits as they relate to our care of the planet and the poor. There are many parishes in the Diocese of Raleigh participating in this Lent program as we seek to live out our call to care for God's creation, our "common home," as Pope Francis says. To find more info online about Greener Lent and to sign-up to participate during Lent, go directly to www.greenerlent.org. You can also contact our St. Francis Creation Care Ministry at stfccreation@gmail.com.



The St Vincent de Paul Conference is in need of a Story Teller? We are in need of volunteers who from their own home attend a SVdP Meeting via Zoom. The Story Teller would then select two cases that were discussed during the meeting, on a Neighbor's difficulties and how we help them, of which to write stories for the bulletin. Anyone from a Teen on up who likes to write stories can apply. It is important to keep parishioners informed. If interested in helping contact Cathy Smith at smithtcr@gmail.com.



Clothing Children with Dignity and Love Volunteers needed to sort You will be trained, masked and socially distanced Families/groups are welcome!

To register:

https://noteinthepocket.org/volunteer-registration-form/
To volunteer:
https://signup.com/go/wKTLsfa



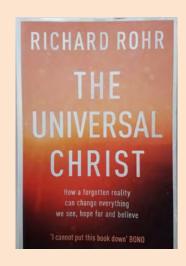






Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 4:00 to 4:45pm on Saturdays in the church.

All health and safety protocols will be followed but we will NOT be recording names of those who join.



Beginning on Wed Feb 24 from 1:00 to 2:30pm and continuing for every 2nd and 4th Wed of the month, we will be gathering via Zoom to discuss Franciscan Father Richard Rohr's book, The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe. We will read and share insights from a chapter or two of the book at each meeting. If you are interested in joining or have questions, contact Tracy Hurley at (828) 773-3152/ danandtracy@hotmail. com or Deacon Steve at (732) 213-0104 / stephenwandrews@ outlook.com. Also if you can't make the day session but would be interested in a evening session let us know.

### **LGBT Ministry Lenten Small Christian Community**

We will meet each Friday (February 19 – March 26) from 7:00 – 8:00 pm on Zoom for prayer and reflection on the Sunday Scripture readings from an LGBTQ faith perspective and fellowship. All are welcome - LGBTQ+ individuals, family, friends, and allies. Contact Chris O'Neill at <a href="mailto:coneill95@gmail.com">coneill95@gmail.com</a> for more details and the Zoom link.

### **SCAM ALERT**

Scammers are at it again sending malicious emails to parishioners. You will NEVER get a soliciation email from our pastor or bishop asking for "a favor", or for emergency help in the form of money. Please do not open or click on them. Simply trash them. They could cause havoc on your computer and your pocket book.

### **Group Opportunities**

Due to the changing nature of reopening our doors, please check the group opportunity to confirm whether it is held in a virtual format or in-person.

**AA Meeting:** For our Alcoholics Anonymous friends whose meetings have been ca ncelled. The Internet is full of online recovery resources. Online meetings like this one - you can belong to more than one, or two, or three. AA.ORG main website has a list. There are private Facebook groups, endless websites, and speaker tapes. It's all there. Al-Anon Meetings: Sun. 7:00pm, LaVerna, lower level.

**Always God's Children:** Always God's Children: The monthly support group meeting for LGBTQ+ people and family and friends. To receive an invite to the online meeting, email Chuck Small at chuck.smallsfa@gmail.com.

**Adult Open Play Nights:** Assisi Community Center Gym. Visit http://stfrancisraleigh.org/adult-open-play to contact the ministry leaders for each of our adult open play nights.

### Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Support Group:

The first Wednesday of the month, 1:00-3:00pm and the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00-9:00pm, in the Padua Room of Assisi Community Center. Linda Tucker, Itucker40@nc.rr.com, 937-478-9537.

**Centering Prayer:** Thursdays, 9:35am or 7:30pm

in St. Mary of the Angels Chapel.

Community Center Classes: Regular exercise classes and parent/

child classes run weekly, September-May. www.stfrancisraleigh.org/programs-and-classes. **Community Garden:** Saturday mornings,10:00am. Call Pat or Paul Kelly at 919-413-8833, email

mpmkelly@hotmail.com, or just drop by.

**Divorce Care:** Divorce Care – Our next session will begin meeting virtually via zoom from February 2 to May 11 from 6:00 – 8:00pm. For more information contact Bill Morgan at <u>dejanuts@yahoo.com</u> or visit <a href="https://www.divorcecare.org/about">https://www.divorcecare.org/about</a>.

#### **Grief Support Group**

Contact Marsha Riely at marshariely@mac.com or Marlys Varga at marlysvarga@hotmail.com.

### GriefShare

Contact Kathleen Owen at kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleighorg. **Job Connections:** We provide tools and advice on how to stay motivated and on target. To enroll, contact Mary Horner at sfa.icm@gmail.com.

**Men's Ministry:** Breakfast, Padua Room of the Assisi Community Center. Visit https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/mensministry/ for details.

**Padre Pio Secular Franciscans:** Learn more about living Franciscan spirituality in the secular world. Monthly Gatherings the 4th Sunday of the month, 1-3 Founders Room.

Contact: Ellen Ferrone - ellen.ferrone@gmail.com.

**Peace Pole Prayer:** Join us after the 9:30am Mass on Sundays to pray for peace in the world and our country. Meet in front of Clare Hall for a few minutes of prayer.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry:**

Contact Cindy Cardello, 919-846-8825 or Diane Rotunno, 919-844-7153 for details.

Rosary Ministry: Mondays, 7:30 - 8:30pm, St. Mary of the Angels

Chapel, Marian Monti, ianmar94@aol.com.

**50+ Adults Group:** Monthly potluck luncheons throughout the year and monthly game days, September through May in Clare Fellowship Hall. Contact Angela Azzopardi, 919-848-1347.

### **Women's Ministry:**

- Tue Evenings with Anna Fowler annafowler@nc.rr.com
- Friday Morning with Celesta Carlson ccarlson210@gmail.com

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

### To all our volunteers:

Here are a few ways you could help members of our parish:

### **FaceTime and Zoom**

If you'd like to learn how to use FaceTime or Zoom or be connected to watch our daily and Sunday programs, or if you'd like to teach someone over the phone, please visit our https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/

### **Cards and Artwork**

If you'd like to send or receive cards to/from fellow parishioners and establish a connection with other folks who are sheltering in place, or if you have kids who would love to send their artwork to brighten someone's day or if you'd like to receive some artwork, visit <a href="https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/">https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/offer-or-receive-help/</a>

### **Make a Meal and Deliver Groceries**

If you would like to make a meal or help deliver groceries to those in need, please visit: <a href="https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/">https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/</a> offer-or-receive-help/

### Thank you!

All of our Parish Life Ministries and the Community Center would like to thank you for serving the St. Francis Community. At this time all other volunteer opportunities are suspended until it is safe for us to come together again. Please check your weekly bulletin for updates. Stay well.



**Seeing God in Your Cancer Journey** is an opportunity for patients, survivors, and caregivers to explore what the scriptures say about your cancer journey. Discover the truths that Jesus wants to give you beyond peace. He wants to give you bottomless strength, unsurmountable courage, abundant guidance, abounding joy, thriving relationships and above all, hope.

Contact <u>kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org</u> or call 919-847-8205x241.



## The Courage to Heal

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

L eprosy was a highly contagious skin disease that led to certain death for anyone who caught it in Jesus' time. For good reason the Jewish law demanded that a leper live set apart and cry out as he walked along to keep everyone at a safe distance. Imagine the pitiful scene of everyone discreetly but purposefully moving away at the sound of someone shouting, "Unclean, unclean!"

Yet the leper doesn't shout to keep Jesus away. He walks right up to our Lord and confesses his faith in Jesus' power to heal him of this incurable bacteria. He humbly admits his contagious illness and places himself before Jesus. And unlike anyone else might do, Jesus doesn't run

**Sunday Readings** 

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

The individual shall cry out, "Unclean, unclean!"

#### 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

#### Mark 1:40-45

"If you wish, you can make me clean."
...[Jesus] said to him, "I do will it.
Be made clean."

away, he walks toward him. He does the unthinkable. He touches him!

We need not be ashamed of our deadly sin that eats away at our heart and cripples our ability to love. Go to Jesus, expose it to him, and let his loving touch transform you.

The terrible disease of leprosy was still a major problem well into the nineteenth century when St. Damian, a Belgian missionary, went to the Hawaiian Island of Molokai to serve as parish priest to all the lepers quarantined on that island. Not fearing to touch them, he cared for them for many years until, as expected, he contracted the disease and died of it.

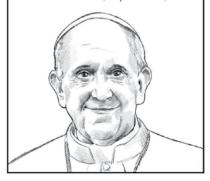
This is what it means to be a Christian! Be like Jesus. Be not afraid of your wounds or those of others, no matter how repellent, and give of yourself to care for them. +

We need not be ashamed of our deadly sin that eats away at our heart and cripples our ability to love.

### A Word from Pope Francis

[Jesus says] he is the real instrument of the Father's mercy, who goes to encounter everyone, bringing consolation and salvation, and, in doing so, he manifests God's justice. The blind, the lame, the lepers, the deaf regain their dignity and are no longer excluded because of their disease.

-General Audience, September 7, 2016



### CUESTIONS OUESTIONS MEETECTIONS

- How at peace am I with my own wounds, sins, and imperfections?
- Am I mature enough to seek help and also help others through their suffering?



**Project Rachel Support Group** - Abortion is experienced by millions of women, many of whom are Catholic. The Project Rachel ministry assists women and who have been wounded by abortion to find healing and peace. There is a support group in the Triangle area. If you have experienced an abortion and would like (confidential) information about the support group, contact Project Rachel at (919) 852-1021, or email: <a href="mailto:project.rachel@raldioc.org">project.rachel@raldioc.org</a> or the website: <a href="http://projectrachelnc.org/">http://projectrachelnc.org/</a>. Calls and appointments are kept strictly confidential.

## Light Within the Darkness

By Kathleen M. Basi

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8

We live in a pretty messed-up world: Countries pursue weapons that could wipe out everything. Mothers turn guns on their children. We justify derision, bigotry, and violence in the name of God. Young people objectify themselves and their peers because they lack good models of how to give and receive love.

The problems aren't hard to identify. What's hard is figuring out what to do about them. They're so big, so sprawling, and so tightly woven. Where do I even begin? What's the right plan of action? How can lowly little me, with my couple hundred social-networking friends, interrupt the momentum of this juggernaut?

My impotence makes me angry. I'm jaded by the partisan bickering that ensures nothing ever gets solved. I'm tempted to throw up my hands and write off the future—and my responsibility to it—altogether. What do my actions matter, anyway, amid so much brokenness, so much willful ignorance?

But when I spend all my energy on anger, I cease to recognize the beauty, the potential for good, that exists alongside



and is sometimes intertwined with the bad. The voices shouting vitriol, anger, narcissism, and greed drown out the whisper of the divine.

I bury myself in self-righteous judgment until, without realizing it, I become part of the problem instead of the solution. I go looking for a safe, insulated enclave, someplace the problems can't reach me, where I'm absolved of the duty to act where, when, and how I'm able.

The opportunity to act does exist, but it's usually uncomfortable. It's easier to stand back and complain than to dig in, get my hands dirty, and risk learning—through abject failure or mediocre success—how small I really am. I think this is why St. Paul tells us to contemplate what is true and pure: What I focus on determines my reality. If I wrap my worldview in anger, I leave no room for kindness and compassion. But if I fix my sights on all that is good and holy, I'm fortified against the bitterness and disillusionment that might otherwise cripple me as I fight the unwinnable battle against the effects of sin. After all, let's face it—as Henri Nouwen observed, the world will always be dark. My efforts aren't going to change that.

Fortunately, God doesn't look at the bottom line when measuring my job performance. As St. Teresa of Calcutta famously said, "My job is not to succeed, but to be faithful to my mission." +

If I wrap my worldview in anger, I leave no room for kindness and compassion.



Lord, your love transcends the boundaries of the human condition. Open my eyes to see your face in all people.

— From Peaceful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeny

### WEEKDAY READINGS

February 15-20

Monday, Weekday: Gn 4:1-15, 25 / Mk 8:11–13

Tuesday, Weekday: Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10 / Mk 8:14–21

**Wednesday,** Ash Wednesday: Jl 2:12–18 / 2 Cor 5:20—6:2 / Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday after Ash Wednesday: Dt 30:15–20 / Lk 9:22–25

Friday after Ash Wednesday: Is 58:1–9a / Mt 9:14–15

Saturday after Ash Wednesday: Is 58:9b-14 / Lk 5:27-32



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|  | ce: 919-847-8205 fax: 919-870   | 0-1790  | Staff email: firstname.lastname(  | @stfrancisraleigh.org  |  |
| Welcome New Parishioner Registration Becoming Catholic Get Involved! Priests and Deacon Pastor Parochial Vicar In Residence Deacon  Director of Pastoral Ministries  Sacraments Baptism First Reconciliation First Eucharist Confirmation Matrimony Holy Orders Anointing of the Sick Reconciliation Appointments RCIA Sacraments Administration   | Toni Hammes Jenn Fiduccia Deb Royals-Mizerk  Msgr. Michael Clay Fr. Jairo Maldonado Rev. James Sabak, O.F.M. Stephen Andrews  Kathy Sales  Tim Hetzel Sarah Bowser Sarah Bowser Thomas Bulick Tim Hetzel Msgr. Michael Clay Kathleen Owen  Jenn Fiduccia Martina Dumberger  | 847-8205x265<br>847-8205x238<br>847-8205x222<br>847-8205x224<br>847-8205x226<br>919-832-6281<br>732-213-0104<br>847-8205x488<br>847-8205x448<br>847-8205x249<br>847-8205x244<br>847-8205x244<br>847-8205x244<br>847-8205x243<br>847-8205x243<br>847-8205x243<br>847-8205x243                                | The Franciscan School Principal Receptionist (Main Number) Assistant Principal, K-5 Assistant Principal 6-8 St. Francis Preschool Director Assistant to the Director Faith Formation Director Children's Faith Formation Coordinator of Youth Ministry Middle School Faith Formation Play and Pray (Sunday Nursery) Parish Operations Communications and Webmaster Director of Facilities Director of Facilities Director of Stewardship Human Resources Parishioner Records Safe Environment Specialist                              | Mike Watson         919-534-4           Katie Hall         919-534-4           Dawn Smith         847-8205x           Colette Dziadul         847-8205x           Heidi Hobler         847-8205x           Shelley Freeman         847-8205x           Jenn Fiduccia         847-8205x           Sarah Bowser         847-8205x           Marisa Ferrara         847-8205x           Thomas Bulick         847-8205x           Tara Moore         847-8205x           Diogenes Ruiz         847-8205x           Rob Neppel         847-8205x           Deb Royals-Mizerk         847-8205x           Trish Adamkowski         847-8205x           Toni Hammes         847-8205x           Trina Sugrue         847-8205x   | 4837<br>4254<br>4254<br>4240<br>4262<br>4238<br>4496<br>4227<br>4227<br>4227<br>4222<br>4236<br>4265 |
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